[Sh. Rajveer Singh]

Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government gave approval for the setting up an oil depot in the Aonla Parliamentary Constituency in 1990. However, farmers whose lands were acquired for the purpose have not been given adequate compensation so far. Apart from that, the construction work of the oil depot is yet to commence, although the Government has earmarked crores of rupees for the purpose. The setting up of this oil depot will solve the petrol/diesel shortage problem of the area. The more the delay, the escalation in the cost of construction would be more. Therefore, it is very essential to complete the project at the earliest, to meet the oil requirements of the area.

Therefore, it is my humble request to the Union Government to start the construction work of the oil depot at Aonla at the earliest.

(iv) Need to release funds to the Government of Gujarat under Agriculture and Rural Co-operative Debit Relief Scheme, 1990

[*English*]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): The Gujarat Government has introduced the Agricultural and Rural Cooperative Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 in the light of guidelines given by the Government of India. The scheme envisages sharing of the financial burden by the Central Government and the Gujarat State Government in the ratio of 50 : 50. Out of a total financial burden of Rs. 553.58 crores, the Central Government's schools of equal amount, that is, Rs. 176.79 crores. The amount to be borne by the State Government under the scheme is to be received from the Government of India as loan through NABARD.

Government of India has so far released a grant of Rs. 107.406 crores and loan of Rs. 107.406 crores through NABARD of State share. Thus, the total amount received is Rs. 214.812 crores, which has been passed on to the State Co-operative Bank and State Land Development Bank.

Now, an amount of Rs. 138.768 crores is required to be released by Government of India – half of it as grant and the remaining half as loan through NABARD. Government of India has been requested from time to time to release the amount quickly.

In these circumstances, I urge on the Central Government to release the remaining amount immediately.

(v) Need to fix uniform rate for storage of potatoes in cold storages throughout the country

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the condition of the farmers in the country is going from bad to worse. Apart from the problems caused by the recurring floods, the farmers of North Bihar are affected by the rise in the prices of agricultural inputs and the exploitation of the middlemen. This year, the potato crop in Bihar has been severely hit by frost. Their difficulties have multiplied because the cold storage owners are charging an advance payment of Rs. 15/- per quintal to reserve space for storing potatoes. This is higher than that of previous years. Along with it, the rent for keeping potatoes in the cold storage has been increased to Rs. 65/- per quintal. Therefore, keeping in mind the difficulties faced by the farmers of Bihar, the Union Government is requested to fix a uniform rate throughout the country, for keeping potato in cold storage and thereby mitigate the difficulties of the farmers and save them from economic exploitation.

(vi) Need to set up a high power T.V. transmitter in District Saharsa and Low Power Transmitter at Sepaul, Bihar

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV